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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,659	11/24/2003	Masataka Aoki		1165

24956 7590 11/19/2004

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD
SUITE 370
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

RICHARDSON, JOHN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3641

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/718,659

Applicant(s)

AOKI ET AL.

Examiner

John Richardson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05-23-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Non Final Rejection

1). The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2). The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3). The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Figure 11, does not disclose portions B, C, referred to in the specification, page 8, lines 17-23.
- The claims are vague, indefinite and incomplete, particularly as to what is meant by the term '**reactor building**'. The Abstract refers to a '**reactor building**' on line 3. It is the examiner's position that the term '**reactor building**' should be stated as '**nuclear reactor building**' to be consistent to the intent of the disclosure specification, page 1, lines 7-15.

Appropriate correction is required.

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4). Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 16, line 4, cites **'from grand level'** and it is the examiner's position that this should be stated as **'from grade level'**
- Appropriate correction is required.

5). Claims 14-20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are vague, indefinite and incomplete, particularly as to what is meant by the term **'reactor building'**. The specification refers to a **'nuclear power plant'** on page 1, lines 7-15. It is the examiner's position that the term **'reactor building'** should be stated as **'nuclear reactor building'**

As presently set forth the metes and bounds of the claims are undefined.

6). Claims 14 to 16, 19 to 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schabert et al (U.S. 3,937,651).

The reference discloses a nuclear reactor power plant structure comprising an equipment handling structure (item 18) supported on a plurality of columns / pillars

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/upright structural bodies (items 9a, 10, 11), the said structural items are arranged around a reactor building defined by structural walls (item 25), said reactor building containing a reactor pressure vessel (item 1), an opening (item 8a) above the said pressure vessel, a plurality of beams / rails (items 17) crossing above the said reactor building with both ends connected to said columns / pillars / upright structural bodies, and a lifting machine (item 18) having a lifting device, with said lifting machine movable on said beam, relating to claim 15, the distance between a lowermost plane of said lifting device and an upper plane of said reactor building is longer than the height of said pressure vessel as disclosed in Figure 1, relating to claim 16, the said lifting machine is movable along said pillars / columns /upright structural bodies up to at least the height of the said reactor building as shown in Figure 1, relating to claim 19, the said lifting device is motorized, relating to claim 20, the said lifting machine is fixed to the said beam / rail by means of dead weight and rail wheel capture means.

7). Claims 14 to 17, 19 to 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al (U.S. 6,252,922).

The reference discloses a nuclear reactor power plant structure comprising an equipment handling structure (Figure 1) supported on a plurality of columns (see Figure 1, and details of support struts / columns below the overhead crane, item 8, the said structural items are arranged around a reactor building defined by structural walls (item 21), said reactor building containing a reactor pressure vessel (item 3), an opening (item

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61) above the said pressure vessel, a beam in the form of the crane rail (items 8) crossing above the said reactor building with both ends connected to said columns, and a lifting machine (item 8) having a lifting device, with said lifting machine movable on said beam, relating to claim 15, the distance between a lowermost plane of said lifting device and an upper plane of said reactor building is longer than the height of said pressure vessel as disclosed in Figure 1, relating to claim 16, the said lifting machine is movable along said columns up to at least the height of the said reactor building as shown in Figure 1, relating to claim 16, the said support struts / columns are relatively near the said opening, item 61, as shown for example, in Figure 1, relating to claim 19, the said lifting device is motorized, relating to claim 20, the said lifting machine is fixed to the said beam / rail by means of dead weight rail wheel capture means.

8). Claims 14 to 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aoki et al (U.S. 6,608,879).

The reference discloses a nuclear reactor power plant structure comprising an equipment handling structure (Figure 2) supported on a plurality of columns (items 24), the said structural items are arranged around a reactor building defined by structural walls (item 10), said reactor building containing a reactor pressure vessel (item 2), an opening (item 38) above the said pressure vessel, a beam in the form of the crane rail (items 85) crossing above the said reactor building with both ends connected to said columns, and a lifting machine (item 85) having a lifting device, with said lifting machine

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movable on said beam, relating to claim 15, the distance between a lowermost plane of said lifting device and an upper plane of said reactor building is longer than the height of said pressure vessel as disclosed in Figure 6, relating to claim 16, the said lifting machine is movable along said columns up to at least the height of the said reactor building as shown in Figure 1, relating to claim 16, the said support struts / columns are relatively near the said opening as shown for example, in Figure 2, relating to claim 18, the number of columns items 24 is greater than 6 as shown in Figure 2, relating to claim 19, the said lifting device is motorized, relating to claim 20, the said lifting machine is fixed to the said beam / rail by means of dead weight rail wheel capture means.

9). Claims 14 to 16, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al (U.S. 6,198,787).

The reference discloses a method and apparatus for handling a nuclear reactor pressure out of a nuclear reactor containment structure that reads on the applicant's cited claims, comprising a plurality of structural columns arranged around a reactor building (item 11) in the form of a structure defined as item 91 with a plurality of structural columns, the said reactor building housing a reactor pressure vessel and having an opening (item 61) for removing said pressure vessel, a beam structure above said reactor building (see Figure 10a) with structural connections to said structural columns, a lifting machine (item 52) movable on said beam, relating to claims 15-16, the said lifting machine lifting distances relative to the grade level are longer than the height

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of the said pressure vessel, and relating to claim 23, the reference discloses a reactor pressure vessel storage facility (item 81) positioned under the said beam lifting span.

10). The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11). Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Richardson whose telephone number is (703) 305 0764. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7.00 AM to 4.30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone, can be reached on (703) 306 4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 1113.

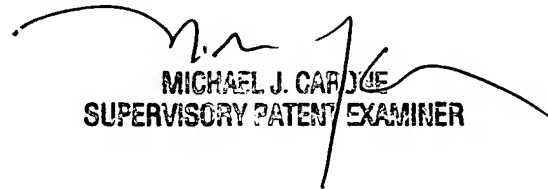
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications can be obtained from either private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

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more information about the PAIR system, see <[http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov)>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

John Richardson, PE,

November 10 2004.



MICHAEL J. CAPOUE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER